



DHSS SNAPSHOT

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Enhancing Public Health Services



*Gail Vasterling, acting director,
Missouri Department of Health and
Senior Services*

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services is pursuing a new opportunity to enhance public health services and improve the quality of life for Missourians. The department is in the early phases of becoming an accredited public health department. The accreditation process involves meeting a series of measures based on the ten essential functions of public health. DHSS is already complying with many of these standards so now the department must provide documentation to the Public Health Accreditation Board and take the additional steps required to gain accreditation. Along the way, we expect the accreditation process to help the department identify the successes and challenges of our public health practices and policies.

There are seven steps in the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) accreditation process cycle: pre-application, application, documentation selection and submission, site visit, decision, reports, and reaccreditation. Currently, DHSS is in the pre-application stage of the accreditation process. Teams of staff from throughout the department are meeting to identify and gather documentation that shows how DHSS is already meeting many of these PHAB standards.

There are three prerequisites for an application:

- Statewide Health Assessment – This is a tool for DHSS to identify the major health indicators in the state that need attention.
- Statewide Health Improvement Plan – The plan outlines the strategies DHSS will use to improve the health of Missourians by assessing and setting priorities for the public health system.
- Department Strategic Plan – This builds upon the already existing plan and perfects the model for accreditation.

Accreditation requires the cooperation of the whole department, and will lead to other benefits, including:

- Development of new skills among employees
- Building teamwork through collaborative efforts and improved communication
- Creating a sense of pride and ownership among staff

We are already in the process of examining many of our practices and deciding what documentation will best tell the story of how DHSS serves the people of Missouri. The goal is to submit the application to PHAB this fall. Then there will be a site visit from PHAB staff and after that DHSS will receive the decision. The entire process can easily take over a year. Once DHSS gains accreditation, we will reapply every five years. We encourage everyone to learn more about accreditation at DHSS by visiting the accreditation page under *Performance Management* on the DHSS Intranet.

Inside:

DSDS Honored for Alzheimer's Disease Work	2	Administrative Professionals Day	3
Dietitian of the Year Award	2	Star Performance	4
Breast Cancer Prevention Starts with You	3	For the Love of Art	5
		Employee of the Month	5

DSDS Honored for Alzheimer's Disease Work

On March 13, the Division of Senior and Disability Services (DSDS) was awarded the Leadership of the Year Award presented by the Missouri Coalition of Alzheimer's Association Chapters. The event was held during the Association's annual Missouri Memory Day Ceremony at the Capitol Rotunda. Over 200 Alzheimer's advocates from across the state paid tribute to both those living with the disease as well as loved ones lost.

The Missouri Coalition of Alzheimer's Association is comprised of four chapters – Heart of America, St. Louis, Mid-Missouri and Southwest Missouri. Each chapter works in partnership with DSDS to increase early detection, diagnosis and access to services through Project Learn More and the Administration on Aging. They also provide caregiver support through Alzheimer's service grants.

For more information visit: www.alz.org.



The Division of Senior and Disability Services received the Leadership of the Year Award presented by the Missouri Coalition of Alzheimer's Association Chapters. Attending were Glenda Meachem-Cain, DSDS; Carroll Rodriguez, Alzheimer's Association St. Louis Chapter; Celesta Hartgraves and Bobbi Jo Garber, DSDS; Clemme Rambo, Heart of America Chapter and Michael Brewer, DSDS.

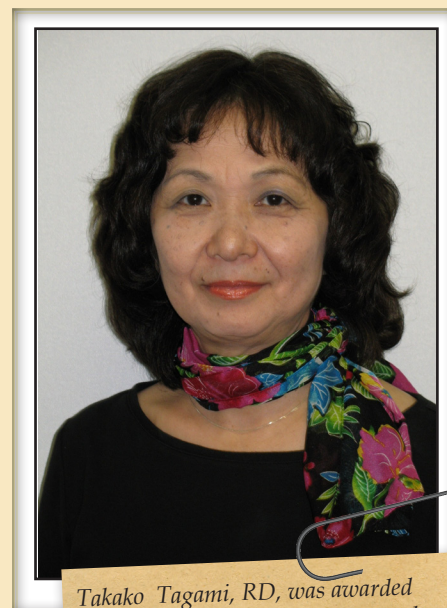
Dietitian of the Year Award

DHSS Nutrition Specialist Takako Tagami was named "Outstanding Dietitian of the Year" by the Missouri Dietetic Association. She was honored for her dedication to community nutrition activities through the Central Missouri Dietetic Association (CMDA) and for the many contributions she has made to the dietetics profession.

Takako has been coordinating interactive nutrition education programs in the Central Missouri area since 1996. Together with Dr. Kristin Eiffert, she co-developed an interactive nutrition education program, called "Cooking and Nutrition Can Be Fun and Yummy!" The goal of the program is to teach children about nutrition science, measuring ingredients and cooking. They also developed a nutrition program for adults.

Takako received the award during the 2013 MINK Annual Conference held on April 4, 2013 in Overland Park, Kansas. The MINK Conference includes participants from state dietetic and nutrition associations in Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas.

Takako received a master's degree in Nutrition and Dietetics from the University of Kansas, and Business Administration from William Woods University in Fulton. She has been a registered dietitian for 17 years with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. She currently works as a nutrition specialist in the Bureau of WIC and Nutrition Services.



Takako Tagami, RD, was awarded Outstanding Dietitian of the Year by the Missouri Dietetic Association. Takako is a nutritionist for WIC and Nutrition Services.

Breast Cancer Prevention Starts with You

Early detection is key when it comes to breast cancer. Holly Withrow was one of several DHSS employees who took preventative measures to be screened for breast cancer through the Ellis Fischel Mobile Mammography Van on March 20.

"I'm not really good about going to the doctor," said Holly. "But when I received the mamm van announcement, I told myself I really needed to do this."

Holly's sister was recently diagnosed with Stage 3 breast cancer and a close friend just finished treatment for Stage 2 breast cancer.

"I didn't want to take any chances, knowing that my sister has breast cancer," said Holly. "And I couldn't beat the convenience having it done right here."

One in eight women in the US will develop breast cancer in their lifetime. Mammography, clinical breast examination by a healthcare provider and breast self-examination are important in the detection of breast cancer.

"A well-woman checkup is only once a year," said Holly. "My sister has really encouraged me to do self breast exams, which is excellent advice that I will take from her."

Holly Withrow, Division of Senior and Disability Services, completes the necessary paperwork for a mammogram. Holly took advantage of having a mammogram through Ellis Fischel Mobile Mammography Van at the DHSS Wildwood campus on March 20.

"Women should know how their breasts normally look and feel and report any breast change promptly to their health care provider. Breast self-exam is an option for women starting in their 20s."

American Cancer Society



For a step-by-step guide to self breast exams, visit: health.mo.gov/BSE.

Mark your calendars! The Mammography Van will be at DHSS on March 20 and 21, 2014.

Administrative Professionals Day is April 24

A special thanks to all of the support staff within the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services who assist the department's programs and play a critical role in promoting the health and well being of Missouri's citizens.



Star Performance

If you know of a staff member that has received special recognition for going the extra mile, please send it to Lori.Buchanan@health.mo.gov.

John, Tracy, Brian, Mark, Perry and Terry

Thank you so much for processing requests for nearly 170 WIC local offices and managing the WIC inventory for almost 150 WIC items!

Because of support from each one of you, local WIC providers can provide services to more than 140,000 WIC participants each month.
All of you are wonderful and efficient!

*Takako
WIC and Nutrition Services, DHSS*



(Front row, l. to r.) Mark Rockers, John Braloski and Tracy Fisher. (Back row, l. to r.) Terry Stratman, Perry Foster and Brian Bishop.

“Because of support from each of you, local WIC providers can provide services to more than 140,000 WIC participants each month.”

For the Love of Art

As an artist, Cece Boos uses her artistic ability to express feelings, beauty and creativity. She recently created a 6 x 7 foot mosaic for the school all four of her children attended. The mosaic is made of glass tiles that she either cut by hand or shaped with a glass grinder. It took 18 months to complete.

"Art has always been a passion of mine," says Cece Boos, senior office support assistant for the Bureau of Special Health Care Needs. "My dream is to use my interior design background to create china painted tile back splashes for homes and businesses."

Although Cece doesn't work as an artist full time, she still finds time to fulfill her passion by china painting.

Cece's husband is also an artist and a full time carpenter. He bought an old hotel in Cape Girardeau and renovated it into a home with an art studio. This large space allowed Cece to create her mosaic by laying it flat on a large drafting table in three panels that could later be assembled onto the school wall.

"It is a great feeling to see the mosaic completed, but most of all, I am happy when students, families and community members express their appreciation of the mosaic."

You can see more of Cece's artistic ability at etsy.com; search for KilnArt.



Artist, Cece Boos created the above mosaic out of glass tiles for her children's school. The 6 x 7 foot mosaic took 18 months to complete. Cece works for the Bureau of Special Health Care Needs in Cape Girardeau.

DHSS Employee of the Month

Anne Barnes takes her job as an adult protective and community worker very seriously, especially when it comes to protecting those who are unable to stand up for themselves. Last year she worked to assist police in their investigation into the actions of several individuals who were accused of abusing an elderly man. Anne received an emergency hotline call about the man, who arrived in the emergency room unable to communicate.

He was suffering from severe dehydration, malnourishment, skin tears and bruising. Anne asked law enforcement to visit the man's home to view the conditions and gather evidence. She also collected over a thousand pages of records regarding the man's drastic health decline. The information Anne was able to collect aided in the prosecution of the responsible individuals.

Anne has been with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services for seven years and works in Madison County for the Bureau of Home and Community Services. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends. Anne also enjoys horseback riding, hunting, fishing, hiking, swimming and working in the garden.



Anne Barnes was named as March Employee of the Month. Anne works as an adult protective and community worker in the Bureau of Home and Community Services in Madison County.

The DHSS Snapshot is published by the Office of Public Information.
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